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Third Committee

Agenda item 68 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person, the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and other relevant human rights conventions,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as set out in Council resolution 26/12 of 26 June 2014,[3]

Welcoming the universal ratification of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[4] which, alongside international human rights law, provide important legal

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

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frameworks of accountability in relation to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions during armed conflict,

Recalling all its resolutions on the subject of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions as well as the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the subject, and emphasizing the importance of their full and effective implementation,

Recognizing the positive role that regional human rights systems can play in the global protection against arbitrary deprivation of life,

Acknowledging the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and its implementation for the promotion and protection of the enjoyment by all persons of human rights, gender equality, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Noting with deep concern that impunity continues to be a major cause of the perpetuation of violations of human rights, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,

Noting that enforced disappearances can end up in extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, recalling the importance in this regard of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[6] and calling upon all States which have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Acknowledging that international human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Noting with deep concern the growing number of civilians and persons hors de combat killed in situations of armed conflict and internal strife, and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by conflict, as recognized in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and subsequent resolutions on the matter,

Noting also with deep concern the continuing instances of the arbitrary deprivation of life, resulting from, inter alia, the imposition and implementation of capital punishment when carried out in a manner that violates international law,

Recalling the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)[7] and the adoption of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),[8]

Deeply concerned about acts that can amount to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions committed against persons exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in all regions of the world,

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[5] Resolution 70/1.

[6] Resolution 61/177, annex.

[7] Resolution 65/229, annex.

[8] Resolution 70/175, annex.

Deeply concerned also about killings committed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal organizations, which may amount to abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law,

Acknowledging that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions may under certain circumstances amount to genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as defined in international law, including in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[9] and recalling in this regard that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from such crimes, as set out by the General Assembly in its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and 63/308 of 14 September 2009,

Convinced of the need for effective action to prevent, combat and eliminate the abhorrent practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which represent flagrant violations of international human rights law, particularly the right to life, as well as of international humanitarian law,

1. *Reiterates its strong condemnation* of all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continue to occur throughout the world;

2. *Demands* that all States ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions is brought to an end and that they take effective action to prevent, combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms and manifestations;

3. *Reiterates* that all States must conduct prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into all suspected cases of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, identify and bring to justice those responsible, while ensuring the right of every person to a fair hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, grant adequate compensation within a reasonable time to the victims or their families and adopt all necessary measures, including legal and judicial measures, also bearing in mind gender equality in access to justice, to put an end to impunity and prevent the further occurrence of such executions, as recommended in the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extralegal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions,[10] fully consistent with their obligations under international law;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to pay greater attention to the work of national-level commissions of inquiry into extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, with a view to ensuring the effective contribution of these commissions to accountability and to combating impunity;

5. *Calls upon* all States, in order to prevent extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to comply with their obligations under the relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, and also calls upon States which retain the death penalty to pay particular regard to the provisions contained in articles 6, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[11] bearing in mind the

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.
[10] Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/65, annex.
[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

safeguards and guarantees set out in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and 1989/64 of 24 May 1989 and taking into account the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in his reports to the Council and the General Assembly, including the report submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session,[12] regarding the need to respect all safeguards and restrictions, including limitation to the most serious crimes, stringent respect of due process and fair trial safeguards and the right to seek pardon or commutation of sentence;

6. *Urges* all States:

(a) To take all measures required by international human rights law and international humanitarian law to prevent loss of life, in particular that of children, during detention, arrest, public demonstrations, internal and communal violence, civil unrest, public emergencies or armed conflicts and to ensure that the police, law enforcement agents, armed forces and other agents acting on behalf of or with the consent or acquiescence of the State act with restraint and in conformity with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the principles of proportionality and necessity, and in this regard to ensure that police and law enforcement officials are guided by the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials[13] and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;[14]

(b) To ensure the effective protection of the right to life of all persons, to conduct, when required by obligations under international law, prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into all killings, including those targeted at specific groups of persons, such as racially motivated violence leading to the death of the victim, killings of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities or because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, killings of persons affected by terrorism or hostage-taking or living under foreign occupation, killings of refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, street children or members of indigenous communities, killings of persons for reasons related to their activities as human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists or demonstrators, killings committed in the name of passion or in the name of honour and killings committed for discriminatory reasons on any basis, to bring those responsible to justice before a competent, independent and impartial judiciary at the national or, where appropriate, international level and to ensure that such killings, including those committed by security forces, police and law enforcement agents, paramilitary groups or private forces, are neither condoned nor sanctioned by State officials or personnel;

7. *Affirms* the obligation of States, in order to prevent extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to protect the lives of all persons deprived of their liberty in all circumstances and to investigate and respond to deaths in custody;

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[12] A/67/275.

[13] Resolution 34/169, annex.

[14] See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.

8. *Encourages* States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the United Nations and of regional human rights systems, to review, where necessary, their domestic laws and practices with regard to the use of force in law enforcement in order to ensure that these laws and practices are in conformity with their international obligations and commitments;

9. *Also encourages* States to accelerate the work on fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] bearing in mind the importance of the full enjoyment of human rights and access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, as well as the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective;

10. *Urges* all States to ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely and with full respect for international law and that their treatment, including judicial guarantees and conditions, conforms to, as appropriate, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),[8] as well as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)[7] and, where applicable, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[4] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977,[15] as well as other pertinent international instruments;

11. *Welcomes* the International Criminal Court as an important contribution to ending impunity concerning extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and, noting the growing awareness of the Court worldwide, calls upon those States that are under an obligation to cooperate with the Court to provide such cooperation and assistance in the future, in particular with regard to arrest and surrender, the provision of evidence, the protection and relocation of victims and witnesses and the enforcement of sentences, also welcomes the fact that 124 States have already ratified or acceded to and 139 States have signed the Rome Statute of the Court, and calls upon all those States that have not ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court[16] to give serious consideration to doing so;

12. *Acknowledges* the importance of ensuring the protection of witnesses for the prosecution of those suspected of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, urges States to intensify efforts to establish and implement effective witness protection programmes or other measures, and in this regard encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop practical tools designed to encourage and facilitate greater attention to the protection of witnesses;

13. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and to support projects with a view to training or educating military forces, law enforcement officers and government officials in international humanitarian and human rights law connected with their work and to include a gender and child rights perspective in such training, and appeals to the international community and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to support endeavours to that end;

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[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[16] Ibid., vol. 2271, No. 40446.

14. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly[17] and the Human Rights Council, and invites States to take due consideration of the recommendations contained therein;

15. *Commends* the important role that the Special Rapporteur plays towards the elimination of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue, within his or her mandate, to collect information, including data disaggregated by sex, from all concerned, to respond effectively to reliable information that comes before him or her, to follow up on communications and country visits and to seek the views and comments of Governments and to reflect them, as appropriate, in his or her reports;

16. *Acknowledges* the important role of the Special Rapporteur in identifying cases where extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions could amount to genocide and crimes against humanity or war crimes, and urges the Special Rapporteur to collaborate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, as appropriate, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide in addressing situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that are of particularly serious concern or in which early action might prevent further deterioration;

17. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations mechanisms and procedures in the field of human rights, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue his or her efforts in that regard;

18. *Urges* all States, in particular those that have not done so, to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur so that his or her mandate can be carried out effectively, including by favourably and rapidly responding to requests for visits, mindful that country visits are one of the essential tools for the fulfilment of his or her mandate, and by responding in a timely manner to communications and other requests transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* to those States that have received the Special Rapporteur, asks them to examine his recommendations carefully, invites them to inform the Special Rapporteur of the actions taken on those recommendations, and requests other States to cooperate in a similar way;

20. *Once again requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standards of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 9, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appear not to have been respected;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with adequate human, financial and material resources to enable him or her to carry out his or her mandate effectively, including through country visits;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in close collaboration with the High Commissioner and in conformity with the mandate of the High Commissioner, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to ensure that personnel specialized in international humanitarian and human rights law, including in provisions related to gender equality, form part

[17] See A/70/304 and A/71/372.

of United Nations missions, where appropriate, in order to deal with serious violations of human rights, such as extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

23. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-second and seventy-third sessions, a report on the situation worldwide with regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and his or her recommendations for more effective action to combat this phenomenon;

24. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-third session.

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Third Committee

Agenda item 68 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

The right to privacy in the digital age

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2]

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 68/167 of 18 December 2013 and 69/166 of 18 December 2014, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions 28/16 of 26 March 2015 on the right to privacy in the digital age[4] and 32/13 of 1 July 2016

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. III, sect. A.

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on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet,[5] and welcoming the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to privacy,

Welcoming the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[6]

Taking note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy[7] and the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression,[8]

Welcoming the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to privacy in the digital age, noting with interest its report thereon,[9] and recalling the panel discussion on the right to privacy in the digital age held during the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council,

Noting that the rapid pace of technological development enables individuals all over the world to use new information and communications technologies and at the same time enhances the capacity of governments, companies and individuals to undertake surveillance, interception and data collection, which may violate or abuse human rights, in particular the right to privacy, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is therefore an issue of increasing concern,

Noting also that violations and abuses of the right to privacy in the digital age may affect all individuals, including with particular effects on women, as well as children and those who are vulnerable or marginalized,

Reaffirming the human right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, and recognizing that the exercise of the right to privacy is important for the realization of the right to freedom of expression and to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and is one of the foundations of a democratic society,

Noting with appreciation general comment No. 16 of the Human Rights Committee on the right to respect of privacy, family, home and correspondence, and protection of honour and reputation, while also noting the vast technological leaps that have taken place since its adoption[10] and the need to discuss the right to privacy in view of the challenges of the digital age,

Recognizing the need to further discuss and analyse, based on international human rights law, issues relating to the promotion and protection of the right to privacy in the digital age, procedural safeguards, effective domestic oversight and

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[5] Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[6] Resolution 70/125.

[7] A/HRC/31/64 and A/71/368.

[8] A/HRC/32/38 and A/71/373.

[9] A/HRC/27/37.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/43/40), annex VI.

remedies, the impact of surveillance on the right to privacy and other human rights, as well as the need to examine the principles of non-arbitrariness and lawfulness, and the relevance of necessity and proportionality assessments in relation to surveillance practices,

Noting the holding of the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NETmundial) and the multi-stakeholder discussions that take place annually in the Internet Governance Forum, which is a multi-stakeholder forum for discussions of Internet governance issues and whose mandate was extended by the General Assembly in 2015 for another 10 years,[6] and recognizing that effectively addressing the challenges relating to the right to privacy in the context of modern communications technology requires an ongoing, concerted multi-stakeholder engagement,

Affirming that this engagement is greatly facilitated by informal dialogues about the right to privacy among all relevant stakeholders,

Recognizing that the discussion on the right to privacy should be based upon existing international and domestic legal obligations, including international human rights law, as well as relevant commitments, and should not open the path for undue interference with an individual's human rights,

Stressing the importance of full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including the fundamental importance of access to information and democratic participation,

Recalling that the right to privacy is important for the exercise of freedom of expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information, contributes to the development of an individual's ability to participate in political, economic, social and cultural life and that digital technology has a considerable impact on the enjoyment of these rights,

Noting that, while metadata can provide benefits, certain types of metadata, when aggregated, can reveal personal information and can give an insight into an individual's behaviour, social relationships, private preferences and identity,

Expressing concern that individuals often do not provide their free, explicit and informed consent to the sale or multiple resale of their personal data, as the collecting, processing and sharing of personal data, including sensitive data, have increased significantly in the digital age,

Emphasizing that unlawful or arbitrary surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the unlawful or arbitrary collection of personal data, as highly intrusive acts, violate the right to privacy, can interfere with the right to freedom of expression and may contradict the tenets of a democratic society, including when undertaken on a mass scale,

Recognizing that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy,

Noting in particular that surveillance of digital communications must be consistent with international human rights obligations and must be conducted on the basis of a legal framework, which must be publicly accessible, clear, precise, comprehensive and non-discriminatory and that any interference with the right to

privacy must not be arbitrary or unlawful, bearing in mind what is reasonable to the pursuance of legitimate aims, and recalling that States that are parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights must undertake the necessary steps to adopt laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the Covenant,

Emphasizing that States must respect international human rights obligations regarding the right to privacy when they intercept digital communications of individuals and/or collect personal data and when they require disclosure of personal data from third parties, including private companies,

Recognizing the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms, including in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,[11]

Noting that general comment No. 16 on article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recommends that States take effective measures to prevent the unlawful retention, processing and use of personal data stored by public authorities and business enterprises,

Noting also that the increasing capabilities of business enterprises to collect, process and use personal data can pose a risk to the enjoyment of the right to privacy in the digital age,

Welcoming measures taken by business enterprises, on a voluntary basis, to provide transparency to their users about their policies regarding requests by State authorities for access to user data and information,

Recalling that business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights and that States must protect against human rights abuses, including of the right to privacy, within their territory and/or jurisdiction by third parties, including business enterprises, as set out in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework[12] and in accordance with applicable laws and other international principles,

Deeply concerned at the negative impact that surveillance and/or interception of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular when carried out on a mass scale, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights,

Noting with deep concern that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms frequently face threats and harassment and suffer insecurity as well as unlawful or arbitrary interference with their right to privacy as a result of their activities,

Noting that, while concerns about public security may justify the gathering and protection of certain sensitive information, States must ensure full compliance with their obligations under international human rights law,

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[11] See resolution 70/1.

[12] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

Noting also in that respect that the prevention and suppression of terrorism is a public interest of great importance, while reaffirming that States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Recognizing that an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment is important to the realization of the right to privacy in the digital age,

1. *Reaffirms* the right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;[2]

2. *Recognizes* the global and open nature of the Internet and the rapid advancement in information and communications technologies as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms, including in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Affirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy;

4. *Encourages* all States to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment based on respect for international law, including the obligations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and human rights instruments;

5. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communications;

(b) To take measures to put an end to violations of those rights and to create the conditions to prevent such violations, including by ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their obligations under international human rights law;

(c) To review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law;

(d) To establish or maintain existing independent, effective, adequately resourced and impartial judicial, administrative and/or parliamentary domestic oversight mechanisms capable of ensuring transparency, as appropriate, and accountability for State surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data;

(e) To provide individuals whose right to privacy has been violated by unlawful or arbitrary surveillance with access to an effective remedy, consistent with international human rights obligations;

(f) To develop or maintain and implement adequate legislation, with effective sanctions and remedies, that protects individuals against violations and abuses of the right to privacy, namely through the unlawful and arbitrary collection, processing, retention or use of personal data by individuals, governments, business enterprises and private organizations;

(g) To further develop or maintain, in this regard, preventive measures and remedies for violations and abuses regarding the right to privacy in the digital age that may affect all individuals, including where there are particular effects for women, as well as children and those vulnerable and marginalized;

(h) To promote quality education and lifelong education opportunities for all to foster, inter alia, digital literacy and the technical skills required to effectively protect their privacy;

(i) To refrain from requiring business enterprises to take steps that interfere with the right to privacy in an arbitrary or unlawful way;

(j) To consider appropriate measures that would enable business enterprises to adopt adequate voluntary transparency measures with regard to requests by State authorities for access to private user data and information;

(k) To develop or maintain legislation, preventive measures and remedies addressing harm from the sale or multiple resale or other corporate sharing of personal data without the individual's free, explicit and informed consent;

6. *Calls upon* business enterprises:

(a) To meet their responsibility to respect human rights in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[12] including the right to privacy in the digital age;

(b) To inform users about the collection, use, sharing and retention of their data that may affect their right to privacy and to establish transparency policies, as appropriate;

7. *Encourages* business enterprises to work towards enabling secure communications and the protection of individual users against arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, including by developing technical solutions;

8. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to participate in informal dialogues about the right to privacy, and welcomes the contribution of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy to this process;

9. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to remain actively seized of the debate, with the purpose of identifying and clarifying principles, standards and best practices regarding the promotion and protection of the right to privacy, and to consider holding an expert workshop as a contribution for a future report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on this matter;

10. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-third session.

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Agenda item 68 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution

The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 65/207 of 21 December 2010, 67/163 of 20 December 2012 and 69/168 of 18 December 2014 on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General,[2] in which he refers the General Assembly to his report on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-third session, in September 2016;[3]

2. *Recalls* paragraph 1 of resolution 69/168, in which it regretted that no specific report on the implementation of resolution 67/163 had been prepared;

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] A/71/273.
[3] A/HRC/33/33.

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3. *Regrets* that, once again, the Secretariat did not provide a specific report on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, despite the request in resolution 69/168, and that the notes by the Secretary-General[4] referring to the reports submitted to the Human Rights Council did not fully correspond to the specific requests by the Assembly in resolutions 69/168 and 67/163;

4. *Notes*, in this regard, the functional and structural differences between national human rights institutions, on the one hand, and the Ombudsman and mediator institutions, on the other, and underlines in this regard that reports on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions should be stand-alone reports;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session the report requested in resolution 69/168;

6. *Recalls* its request in resolution 69/168 that the Secretary-General report in particular on the obstacles encountered by States in implementing the resolution, as well as on best practices in the work and functioning of ombudsman, mediator and other human rights institutions, and requests him to seek the views of States and other relevant stakeholders, in particular ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, as well as civil society, in this regard, and to formulate recommendations in his report on how to establish or strengthen such institutions.

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[4] A/69/287 and A/71/273.

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Azerbaijan, Belarus, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Uruguay and Uzbekistan: revised draft resolution

Missing persons

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[7]

Recalling the accession by 53 States to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[8] and calling upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to it as a matter

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[3] Resolution 217 A (III).
[4] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[8] Resolution 61/177, annex.

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of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances,

Recalling also all previous relevant resolutions on missing persons adopted by the General Assembly, as well as the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/184 as well as all previous resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to the truth,

Noting with deep concern that armed conflicts are continuing in various parts of the world, often resulting in serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Noting that the issue of persons reported missing in connection with international or non-international armed conflicts, in particular those who are victims of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and inflicts grievous suffering on the families of missing persons, and stressing in this regard the need to address the issue from, inter alia, a humanitarian and rule of law perspective,

Considering that the problem of missing persons may raise questions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as appropriate,

Bearing in mind that cases of missing persons involve conduct that may constitute criminal offences, and stressing the importance of ending impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law with respect to missing persons,

Cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility for countering the phenomenon of missing persons, taking all appropriate measures to prevent persons from going missing, including, when appropriate, effectively investigating the conditions relating to persons going missing and determining the fate of missing persons, and for recognizing their accountability as regards implementing the relevant mechanisms, policies and laws,

Bearing in mind the effective search for and identification of missing persons using forensic sciences, and recognizing that great technological progress has been made in this field, including DNA forensic analysis, which can significantly assist efforts to identify missing persons and to investigate violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Recognizing that the establishment and effective work of competent national institutions can play a crucial role in clarifying the fate of missing persons in connection with armed conflict,

Recognizing also the importance of addressing the legal situation of missing persons in connection with armed conflict and supporting their family members through national policies that include a gender perspective, as appropriate,

Noting in this regard the progress made by coordination mechanisms, established in different parts of the world, aiming at exchanging information and

identifying missing persons, which have contributed to informing families of the fate and whereabouts of their missing relatives,

Recognizing that respect for and implementation of international humanitarian law can reduce the number of cases of missing persons in armed conflict,

Stressing the importance of measures to prevent persons from going missing in connection with armed conflict, which may include enacting national legislation, providing appropriate training for armed forces, producing and providing proper means of identification, the establishment of information bureaux, grave registration services and registers of deaths and ensuring accountability in cases of missing persons,

Noting the signing of the Agreement on the Status and Functions of the International Commission on Missing Persons, to establish the Commission as an international organization,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing international and regional efforts to address the question of missing persons and the initiatives undertaken by international and regional organizations in this field,

1. *Urges* States to strictly observe and to respect and ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and, where applicable, in the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977;[2]

2. *Calls upon* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all appropriate measures to prevent persons from going missing in connection with the armed conflict, to account for persons reported missing as a result of such a situation and, in cases of missing persons, to take such measures, as appropriate, as to ensure thorough, prompt, impartial and effective investigations and the prosecution of offences linked to missing persons, consistent with their obligations under international law, with a view to full accountability;

3. *Calls upon* States to take measures to prevent persons from going missing in connection with armed conflict, including by fully implementing their obligations and commitments under relevant international law;

4. *Reaffirms* the right of families to know the fate of their relatives reported missing in connection with armed conflict;

5. *Also reaffirms* that each party to an armed conflict, as soon as circumstances permit and, at the latest, from the end of active hostilities, shall search for the persons who have been reported missing by an adverse party;

6. *Calls upon* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all necessary measures, in a timely manner, to determine the identity and fate of persons reported missing in connection with the armed conflict and, to the greatest extent possible, to provide their family members, through appropriate channels, with all relevant information that they have on their fate, including their whereabouts or, if they are dead, the circumstances and cause of their death;

7. *Recognizes* the need for appropriate means of identification and for the collection, protection and management of data on missing persons and unidentified remains according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges all concerned States to cooperate with each other and with other concerned

actors working in this area by, inter alia, providing all relevant information related to missing persons, including on their fate and whereabouts;

8. *Requests* States to pay the utmost attention to cases of children reported missing in connection with armed conflict and to take appropriate measures to search for and identify those children and to reunite them with their families;

9. *Invites* States that are parties to an armed conflict to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in establishing the fate of missing persons and to adopt a comprehensive approach to this issue, including all such legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms as may be necessary, based on humanitarian considerations only;

10. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to cooperate, consistent with their international obligations, in order to effectively solve cases of missing persons, including by providing mutual assistance in terms of information-sharing, victim assistance, location and identification of missing persons and recovery, identification and return of human remains and, if possible, by identifying, mapping and preserving burial sites;

11. *Invites* States to encourage interaction between competent organizations and institutions, such as national commissions on missing persons, which play a crucial role in clarifying the fate of persons missing in connection with armed conflict and providing support to the families of the missing;

12. *Urges* States, and encourages intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take all necessary measures at the national, regional and international levels to address the problem of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflict and to provide appropriate assistance, as requested by the concerned States, and welcomes in this regard the establishment and efforts of commissions and working groups on missing persons;

13. *Calls upon* States, without prejudice to their efforts to determine the fate of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflict, to take appropriate steps with regard to the legal situation of missing persons and the needs and accompaniment of their family members, with particular attention to the needs of women and children, in such fields as social welfare, psychological and psychosocial support, financial matters, family law and property rights;

14. *Invites* States, national institutions and, as appropriate, intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations to further their engagement in order to follow forensic best practices as they apply to preventing and resolving cases of missing persons in connection with armed conflict;

15. *Also invites* States, national institutions and, as appropriate, intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations to ensure the development and proper management of archives pertaining to missing persons and unidentified remains in connection with armed conflict, as well as access to those archives in accordance with relevant applicable laws and regulations;

16. *Stresses* the need to address the issue of missing persons as a part of peace and peacebuilding processes, with reference to all justice and rule-of-law mechanisms, including the judiciary, parliamentary commissions and truth-finding

mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

17. *Invites* relevant human rights mechanisms and procedures, as appropriate, to address the problem of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflict in their forthcoming reports to the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council at its relevant session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant recommendations;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations;

20. *Decides* to consider the question at its seventy-third session.